

# HAMPTON

CITY PAGE

• MARCH 21

• YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

• MARCH 21

• CITY PAGE

## What is Hampton Neighborhood Month?



Neighborhood Month is a month-long celebration of Hampton's neighborhoods sponsored by the Hampton Neighborhood Commission. It is a time when thousands of citizens work in concert to showcase their neighborhoods while taking the time to get to know their neighbors.

### When is Neighborhood Month?

Neighborhood Month is celebrated each year in May and will kick off on Saturday, May 4 with the second annual Neighborhood Month Parade in Downtown Hampton! Get together with your neighbors and the youth in your area to join the parade with a float or a display that shows the pride you have in your neighborhood!

Deadline for parade entries is March 28.

### In what other ways can I celebrate Neighborhood month?

- Beautification Projects
- Dedications
- Carnivals, Festivals, Sports Tournaments
- Community Picnic or Block Party
- Neighborhood House/Garden Tour
- Family Fun Day
- Blood Drive
- Church Socials
- Neighborhood Yard Sale
- Pancake Breakfast, Fundraisers
- Being a good neighbor



Neighborhood beautification efforts are just some of the events taking place during Neighborhood Month in May.

### How can I get more information?

Call the Neighborhood Office at 727-6460, or visit [www.hampton.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.hampton.gov/neighborhoods) to register for the parade or to check out the latest on Neighborhood Month!

## We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think about City Page. Call us at 727-6893, or e-mail [pubcomm@hampton.gov](mailto:pubcomm@hampton.gov).

We'd like to hear from you soon!

## Power Plant Q & A



### What is the city's investment in The Power Plant of Hampton Roads?

This project is expected to generate a minimum private investment of \$74 million. The city's investment to date is approximately \$22 million. This includes investments in land, a public road and infrastructure and \$5 million in tenant inducement money that has not yet been spent.

City officials are currently conducting research to determine whether they should recommend moving forward on a deal with Bass Pro Shops. If a deal is reached, the current proposal calls for the city to finance \$22 million for



the building. Rent revenue and direct taxes are expected to far exceed the debt service on the building. A mortgage-backed revenue bond would be issued, which means the cost to pay back the loan is covered exclusively by revenue generated by Bass Pro.

There are no other direct costs to taxpayers. Should the revenues not materialize, the city can exercise its moral obligation to honor the debt. Revenue bonds such as those for Bass Pro do not impact the city's ability to issue other bonds for general purposes such as schools and neighborhoods.

### What are the next steps?

The big-box component is well underway. Lowe's Home Improvement is open and a lease was signed with Super Kmart. Since Kmart is undergoing reorganization, the developer has plans in place for moving forward with either Kmart or other big box retail. Additional announcements are expected in the near future for the lifestyle, retail-entertainment component of the project.

The city will be studying Bass Pro's financial structure to see if a deal will make sense for the city. No commitments to spend money on Bass Pro have been made at this time and it will be several months before research on Bass Pro is completed and presented to City Council for their consideration.

For more information about The Power Plant of Hampton Roads, visit the city's Web site, [www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov) and click on What's Hot.



## Calendar

### MARCH 23

#### Bay-friendly Yard Workshop and Save the Bay Breakfast

Make your yard beautiful and easy to take care of — while using BayScapes principles to preserve local waterways, attract wildlife and benefit the environment. Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 8:30 a.m., call Public Works Educational Programs to register, 727-6204.

### MARCH 26

#### Wetlands Board

Regular meeting, 5 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6140.

### MARCH 27

#### City Council

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6315. Agendas on Web site: [hampton.gov/council](http://hampton.gov/council). Meetings broadcast live; re-broadcasts March 28 at 10 a.m., and March 30 at 3 p.m. on The City Channel TV-47.

### APRIL 2

#### Continental Army Band

Ft. Monroe's Continental Army Band presents a chamber music concert, 7:30 p.m., The American Theatre, Free.

### APRIL 2

#### Clean City Commission

Regular meeting, 3:30 p.m., Parks & Rec. conference room, 5th fl., 727-6394.

### APRIL 3

#### School Board

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Forum at Jones Magnet Middle School, 1819 Nickerson Blvd., 896-8107.



### UPCOMING DATES

#### Budget Public Hearings

**April 24** First public hearing

**May 1** Second public hearing/first reading

**May 8** Second reading and final approval

Public hearings are held at City Council meetings, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, [www.hampton.gov/council](http://www.hampton.gov/council).



Want to save time AND be able to keep up with city information? Sign up for Hampton eNews at [www.enews.hampton.gov](http://www.enews.hampton.gov).

Hampton eNews offers subscribers the choice of nine topics — everything from things to do, to neighborhoods. The brief e-mails are free and are at your fingertips.

Why don't you subscribe today?



## Library offers research tools online

Imagine having an electronic resources library at your fingertips. Help for homework, health advice and massive newspaper and magazine archives all at the touch of a few keys. Hampton Public Library is offering this and more.

The library's Web site at [www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org) makes available resources normally only found at major city or research libraries. One of the databases, InfoTrac OneFile, allows Internet users to look at articles from more than 7,000 periodicals or magazines. Expanded Academic offers extensive information on a broad spectrum of academic areas.

Students may benefit most from the new electronic resources as there's a wealth of information to help with homework assignments. Three unique InfoTrac products designed for specific age groups allow children to find newspaper and magazine articles at their reading level. There's also Contemporary Literary Criticism, a critically acclaimed resource about authors and their works, that will help with Language Arts assignments.

For everyone, there's a general interest research database, General Reference Center Gold. This periodical database helps users find newspaper and magazine articles on just about any topics - even movie and restaurant reviews. Health & Wellness Resource Center offers comprehensive, reliable health information (including alternative therapies) and Business & Company Resource Center has business and investor research information.

The Hampton Public Library is able to offer these extensive online resources by participating in a program with the Library of Virginia. If you need help getting started in your online research, you can ask the library's Reference Desk, 727-1154, or click on Online Resources at [www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org) and visit FindItVirginia on the Web.

## Business assistance offered

"The whole world comes to Phoebus," says auction gallery owner Gail Wolpin. Located on Mellen Street, Wolpin's shop holds themed auctions that draw bidders from as far away as France, England and Canada. "People are drawn to quality; they want to buy it, sell it, and work for it."

Wolpin received help from the Hampton Business Incentives Program to open her shop. Now other businesses that want to locate in Phoebus or in Downtown Hampton can get help too.



The program is designed to assist new or expanding retail, restaurant and office users in Downtown Hampton and Phoebus. The program is available for short-term loans and a

one-year line of credit renewable for an additional year. Up to \$50,000 or 50% of a business's total loan amount may be guaranteed. Interest rate buy-downs are available if the business meets local banks' underwriting criteria.

The program is administered through the city's Retail Development Department. City Council has appropriated \$300,000 for this program, which can leverage a minimum of \$1.5 million in bank loans. For additional information, please call 727-6161.

## Ask 311!

**Q.** I've heard about Voter ID Cards. What are they?

**A.** All registered voters in Hampton are being mailed a voter ID card. New cards were needed because a change has taken place in most precincts due to redistricting. All cards should be out to registered voters by the end of March.



### What were some of the changes?

The Congressional and Senatorial districts changed for most of Hampton residents. There were also changes in the School Board districts. Some precinct lines changed and one polling place changed.

### Do I need to present the card when I vote?

No, you do not need to use this card when you vote. You may use a drivers license or any of the approved forms of identification.

### How do I go about changing my name or address on my voter registration?

We need your name, the old and new information, approximate date of the change, and your signature. The deadline is April 8 for the upcoming May City Council election.

### Where can I do this?

You can come to the Registrar's Office, 101 Kings Way, the DMV, pick up a form from your local library, or mail a note with the required information to: Voting Registrar, 101 Kings Way, Hampton, Virginia 23669. Any changes sent through the mail with a postmark of the 8th of April will be changed for the May election.

### How will I know my change was received?

A new voter ID card will be mailed to you.

For additional information about voting districts, important deadlines, etc., visit [www.hampton.gov/voter](http://www.hampton.gov/voter), or call 727-6218.

*Hampton's 311 Customer Call Center will provide answers to frequently asked questions in this column of City Page. To reach the center, dial 3-1-1; on cell phones or outside of Hampton dial 727-8311.*



## Tour de Trash



Do your discards magically disappear when you place them at the curb? What happens to the stuff in your recycling toter? Why must your leaves and grass be placed in clear plastic bags? What about your household chemicals?

Come and get answers to these questions and more, plus get a first hand view of:

- Bethel Landfill
- Hampton's Yard Waste Processing Site
- The Regional Composting Facility
- Hampton's Refuse-Fired Steam Plant
- Tidewater Fibre's Recycling Transfer Facility and much, much more

It all happens on Friday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register to climb aboard the bus!

A \$5 deposit is required, and will be returned if you are present. To register, send deposit with your name, address, and day-time telephone number to the Virginia Cooperative Extension at the address below. Make checks payable to "Hampton Clean City Commission - Keep Hampton Green."

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Tour de Trash Registration  
26 West Queens Way  
Hampton, VA 23669

Seating is limited. For information, call Virginia Cooperative Extension, 727-1401.

## Tune In!

Watch the Hampton Veterans Highway naming ceremony on The City Channel TV-47 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

See how veterans were honored during this recent extension of the Hampton Roads Center Parkway.

